

A
VINDICATION

Of Publick Artificiall

Baths & Barh-stoves

FROM

The Objections and Scandalls ob-
truded on them, by those that
do not, or will not know their
Great Benefit to the
PUBLICK,

By way of Answer to some Fellowes
of Our Colledge of Physicians
in LONDON and others.

By Peter Chamberlen Doctor in Physick,
and Fellow of the said Colledge.

LONDON, Printed in the yeare 1648.





*A Vindication of Publick Artificiall
Bathes and Bath-stoves.*



Salus Populi be *Suprema Lex*, These should not begg a Law that bring You Health attended like a Queen with cleanliness, Nimblenes, Pleasure, Strength and Stature.

The great Doctor-makers of the World *Hippocrates Galen, Avicen, Paracelsus*, and the rest, speaking of them as of Diett, * commend the often use of them, but more in Summer then in Winter: approve severall of them for Digestion, to make one Fatt or Leane, to be a Preparative for Purgation, to be the Perfect Finisher of Cures, to be Absterfive, Aperitive, Resolving, Provoking Urine, Cooling, Heating, Drying, Moistening, Easing Paines, Inclining to Sleep, Good against Paines of the Head, the Gout, Convulsions, Mischances, Dropfies, Pal-sies, Paines of the side, Inflammations of the Lungs, isward Vlcers, Consumptions, Feavers, yea Most Diseases.

Who then can expect that *Doctors* in *Physick*, who only pretend to be so for having read these *Authors*, and for having understood them, and practised by their *Rules*, & main-taine and justifie their practise by their *Precept* will seeme so ignorant as to disallow so great and generous a *Remedie*.

Neverthelesse, there is no doubt but, some way seeke to op-pose even their owne good; For *Good* and *Evill* are contrary,

* *Hipp.*
de vict.
ratione
in Morb:
acut:
Gal: lib.
de Sal.
Diet.
Com.
Epid.
de Off.
lib. 3. de
Tuend.
San.

(2)

and *Wicked* men will grow worfe and worfe, *Tim.* 13. 13. Of such men it is an Honour to heare ill, To which Honour (I thank *God*) I have twice arrived unto; Once for compassionating the generall Miseries and Sufferings of *Woemen* and *Children*, by the ignorance and disorder of some *Midwives* and *Nurses*: And now for endeavouring the *Publick Health* of the *Kingdome*. *But Regium est malè audire & bonè facere.* *Seneca* saith, *Sit tibi tam triste laudari a turpibus, quàm si lauderis ob Turpia.* And a geater then *Seneca* tells, us *The World* shall hate us; Let us heare then what *Slander*, or *Malice* will say and such as thereby are ignorantly seduced.

1. Obj. *This Country is too cold.*

1. Ans. *Germany, Poland, Denmark, and Moscovia* are colder, they use them *Winter* and *Summer*.

2. Ans. *Italie* and *Greece* are colder in *Winter* then we are in *Summer*, let us have them in *Summer*.

3. Ans. They are a *Remedie* against the Cold, If we complaine of Cold let us have this *Remedie*.

4. Ans. If *Experience* approve them not, none will frequent them; the *Losse* will be the *Adventurers*.

2. Obj. *There are Private Hot Houses, And Dr. Grent's Baths.*

1. Ans. *Dr. Grent* hath (indeed) attempted somewhat, but so, as the *Common Wealth* is not sensible of the Benefit, and *Hee* *Himselfe* hath quitted the Inconvenience, Charge, and Trouble of them, And when *Hee* pleaseth may adventure a second *Losse*, or more safely bee an *Adventurer* as (others) in mine.

2. Ans. Let every man enjoy what he hath; but not hinder what hee hath not:

3. Obj. *Other Doctors have them as well as I:*

1. Ans. Why have they not been as zealous to serve the *Common-wealth* with them as I? They cannot deny them to be good, that were to contradict their *Masters*. They will not confesse they fear a Diminution of their owne gain. That were to obtrude a strange Maxime to the State; That sicknes must be provided for *Physicians*, not *Physicians* for sicknes; so *sinners* for *Preachers*, and *Malefactors* for *Judges*.

2. Ans. If they meane only *Bathing-Tubbs*, wherewith they say they can make shift, I contend not with them, to debarr their inconvenient

venient Priviledge, or compell them to this better accommo-
dation; Yet I prescribed the use of them by Mr. *Phillips* and
Mr. *Kellet* Apothecaries in little lesse than desperat Diseases,
before any (but seaven) that are now Fellowes of our Col-
ledge were Doctors, And have appointed not a few in con-
sultations with them since I came over; And they have been
more appointed by others since my Propofall of these pub-
lick ones, then in seaven yeares before.

They say they know them (meaning mine) Why then
would they take no Cognizance of them till the other day,
notwithstanding the Kings Graunt of them, by Order to Sr.
Hen. Vain about 10 yeares since, my Ostrøy in *Holland* 4 yeares
since, My Petition in Print, and mine own mention to some
of them, (particularly to Dr. *Bates*) two yeares since, and
the *Diurnall* divulging them half a year since, and lastly 2
severall Letters from the Honourable Committee.

Who is so deaf as they that will not hear?

But how long have they known them? If long they have
been so long uncharitable in concealing them; if of late then
have they been ignorant of them untill now, probably en-
lightened or provoked to a further information by my Modell
or Propositions. And doth it therefore follow, because they
know them, the publick must want them? It were farre bet-
ter they were ever ignorant.

Lastly, If the onely heart-burning be against me, (though
Treasure would not be refused from a *Turke*, and my long
study, experience, and expences in them might answer their
Compassion) I had rather lay down all my Merit at the feet
of the Parliament, and resign them all my interest (so they
would manifest they could do them, and be obliged no lon-
ger to delay them) than that the Kingdom should be longer
destitute of so great a good; But if they onely plead for
the Dog in the Manger, I dare not so neglect my Native
Country and mine own Family, as to let him sleep there.

This Will be a Monopoly.

Can there be a Monopoly of what is not?

Or where every man is left free to the use of what he hath
or to refuse what he hath not?

3. *Ans.*

4. *Ans.*

5. *Ans.*

4. Obj.

1. *Ans.*

2. *Ans.*

3. *Ans.*

3. *Ans.*

Or where no sweat of any brow is exacted without hire, nor poore mans face ground, nor his Bread engrossed, but rather new employment, and provisions for them?

4. *Ans.*

Publick Workes are distinct from Monopolies, and are not capable of that *Odium*.

5. *Obj.*

They are no new Invention.

1. *Ans.*

In *Solomons* time there was nothing new under the *Sunne*; Yet what we have not had we yet call new. No question but *Trees* floated one the water before *Noah* built his *Arke*; Nor was there ought created new for the *Art of Gunns* or *Printing*, and the *Loadstone* (without doubt) was from the beginning, though the use but of yesterday. The water running from *Ware* in another Channel is deservedly called the *New River*, and is so allowed by *Parliament*. The very grievance is, that *Bathes* having aunciently been of that admirable use and efficacy for the Good of *Mankind*, they are yet in *England* to be new fought out and Studied.

2. *Ans.*

If they be not new where are there any?

3. *Ans.*

Publick Artificiall *Bathes* and *Bath-Houses*, with their *Architecture*, *Order*, *Use*, *Efficacy*, *Safety*; with some of their *Ingredients*, and *Manner of Decocting* them, with their *Cisternes*, *Water-Works*, *Hamaccoes* &c. are so very new that they are not understood by many when mentioned, nor the *Truth* of them beleived when affirmed.

6. *Obj.*

They may be occasions of Sinne.

1. *Ans.*

We may with the same reason, pluck down Churches, or anathematize all Publick Meetings, where Men and Women appear in the best Clothes and choicest *Dresse* that can possibly tempt the *Eye*, although some are neither handsome nor cleanly all the weeke after. Who can answer for the *Bathes* in *Somersetshire*, for *Innes*, for *Feastings*, for *Tavernes*, *Vittualling-Houses*, *Ale-Houses*, *All Houses*?

2. *Ans.*

These will be Publick, and Publick places are not so fit for *Wantonnes* as *Privat*.

3. *Ans.*

Men and Women shall have Places, or *Times* and *Attendants* of each Sex a part.

4. *Ans.*

Abuse ought not to disannull the use of Good things.

7. *Obj.*

They are Remedies for the Pox.

Though

Though *Baths* were good for nothing else, would the *Opposers* have the whole *World* infected for want of them, (for that is the fear that *Rudius* mentions) And the chafed bed is not alwaies exempt by accidentall conversations, or bad *Deliveries* or *Child-bed*. Would they then be content to have the *Pox* without *Remedy*, that will allow no *Remedy* for it? 1. *Ans.*

Though they were fit *Cures* for that *Disease*, ought they therefore to be prohibited in all other *Diseases*? Why do they that will make these *Objections* use *Purging-baggs* and *Dier Drinks*, *Spring* or *Fall*, whose chief *Ingredients* are *Sassa Guajana*, *China*, &c, the only known *Remedies* (of *Vegetables*) against that *Infection*. 2. *Ans.*

Physicians cannot allow the *Water-Bathes* as fit *Indications* of cure. 3. *Ans.*

Good *Remedies* they are to prevent but not to cure it, The reason (perhap.) why the *Disease* was so unknown to the *Auncient*, or so little known to the *Turkes*, and *Muscovites*, notwithstanding their *Luxuries*. 4. *Ans.*

The *Keepers* of the *Baths* will not so disparage the *House*, 5. *Ans.*
displease their *Customers*, or hazard their own *Profite*.

The *Patients* themselves will not seek for *Remedy* in such *Publick Places*, if they may possibly have it elsewhere. These therefore are onely *Arguments* against *Private-houses* or *Beddy-house-Bathes*, or against the use of *Tubbs* and *Sweating-Cradles*. 6. *Ans.*

To conclude, the Design of *Bathes* is *Honourable*, *Vesall*. *Necessary*.

Honourable in being the *Praise* and *Subject* of 30 *Learned Physicians*, and 50 other *Famous Authors*. Secondly, In being the *Work* and *Glory* of many *Great & Mighty Princes* and *Emperours*. The *Grand-Signor* and *Great Duke* of *Muscovia*, not being ashamed to this day, to own the *Patronage* and *Revenue* of them. They having been (aunciently) had in *Divine Reverence*, and now are next in esteeme unto their *Mosques*.

And lastly in making those *Places Honourable* that have them, and those *People Honourable* in *Beauty*, *Stature*, and *Activity* that frequent them. *Vesall*

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Usefull they are in Health and Sicknes. Peace and Warre, Summer and Winter, so proved by Authority, Experience and Arguments, when required.

Necessary they are in All Great intentions of Cure, where other Remedies are nothing beneficiall or sufficient, as Paines of the Goutte, Stone, Childbed: Cure of Many obscure and difficult Diseases in Women; Besides Consumptions, Feavers, Melancholy, Leprosie, Plague, Madnes. &c.

To the Candid this is sufficient.

Oh that the *Worthies of Parliament* (whilst others boast with the *Tyrant* (*Pf. 52.*) That they can do evill) would find out a way to do *Great things with Expedition, and Difficult things with ease*, that the *Sonnes of England* might be cherished, and not make other *Nations* happy with our Decay.

F F N F S.

